

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is pending in this application. By this amendment, Claim 1 is amended; and no claims are canceled or added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1 was rejected over Applicants' admitted prior art (AAPA) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,763,971 to Takahata and U.S. Patent No. 6,093,984 to Shiga.

It is respectfully submitted that the applied art does not teach or suggest that the yoke includes a plurality of yoke members made of a magnetic material and arranged in superposed layers with an insulating layer interposed between each adjacent pair of yoke members, wherein the insulating layers of the yoke members are configured to contact substantially an entire area of a contact surface of each adjacent yoke member, as recited in Claim 1.

The Office Action acknowledges that AAPA and Yamakoshi do not disclose a yoke member that includes a plurality of yoke members made of magnetic material and arranged in superposed layers with an insulating layer interposed between each adjacent pair of yoke members. Applicants submit that the applied art does not further teach or suggest that the insulating layers of the yoke members are configured to contact substantially an entire area of a contact surface of each adjacent yoke member.

In contrast, Shiga discusses in column 5, lines 48-56 that each unit yoke 36 is made by stacking a plurality of steel sheets 40 axially with respect to the rotor. The axially stacked steel sheets 40 are caulked at portions corresponding to the circumferential central portions of the rotor magnets 38 as shown by numeral 41 in Figure 5. In this way, the steel sheets 40 are

mechanically connected together. The steel sheet 40 serves as a magnetic sheet and each caulked portion 41 serves as a connected portion. Accordingly, the applied art does not teach or suggest the features of the claimed invention discussed above. Again, Shiga merely discusses that the steel sheets 40 are caulked so as to be mechanically connected together. The caulked portions 41 of the stacked sheets 40 are set on the circumferential central portions of the respective rotor segments 38. There is no teaching or suggestion for having the insulating layers of the yoke members configured to contact substantially an entire area of a contact surface of each adjacent yoke member.

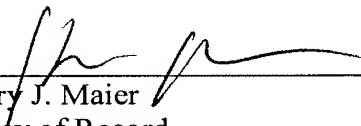
The remaining applied art of AAPA and Yamakoshi does not make up for the deficiencies of Shiga discussed above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for at least the reasons discussed above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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